

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. J. F. Bland

SUBJECT: MARK LANE
SECURITY MATTER - C

DATE: January 16, 1964

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Bland
1 - Mr. Haack

1 - Mr. Lenihan
1 - Mr. Glascock

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

The attached memorandum was prepared in response to the Director's instructions: "Give to Rankin summary on Mark Lane, N. Y. lawyer who has been retained by Mrs. Oswald to represent Oswald before Warren Commission. H"

Lane's name is included in the Reserve Index of the New York Office. From 1953 to 1961 he was a member of, held positions in, attended functions of, or otherwise associated with the National Lawyers Guild, cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) as a communist front.

Lane has spoken at affairs of Burning Issues, a youth organization now affiliated with Advance, a similar organization which follows the line of the national Communist Party (CP) leadership. Burning Issues was also active in backing Lane's political campaign for congress, in which he was unsuccessful.

His public utterances have praised Cuba and condemned the United States. He has also been active in organizations whose aims are the abolition of the HCUA and many of his speeches have urged such abolition.

He received CP support in 1962 in his effort to become elected to congress. In November, 1961, Lane and Benjamin J. Davis CP National Secretary, were principal speakers at a meeting at Columbia University protesting the school's ban against campus speaking engagements by communists. He was arrested and convicted as a "Freedom Rider" in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 8, 1961, and on April 2, 1962, he was fined \$415 in New York City as a "scowlaw" for having ignored numerous traffic tickets he had received. A 1962 investigation of Lane by the District Attorney, Queens County, New York, for alleged [redacted] Lane had had [redacted]

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-409763

RECOMMENDATION:

100-159090
NOT RECORDED 22 JAN 21 1964

That the attached memorandum concerning Lane be furnished to J. Lee Rankin by Inspector James R. Malley.

100-409763

Enclosure
JHG/mea (11)

JAN 21 1964

Sutton

62-109090 - 20412/7/57
Reclassified
Gov.

- 1-Mr. Belmont
 - 1-Mr. Mohr
 - 1-Mr. Rosen
 - 1-Mr. Sullivan
 - 1-Mr. DeLoach
- January 16, 1964

Summary

MARK LANO

- 1-Mr. Malley
- 1-Mr. Egan
- 1-Mr. Lonahan
- 1-Mr. [unclear]
- 1-Mr. [unclear]

News broadcasts on January 15, 1964, stated that Mark Lano, New York attorney, has been retained by Lee Harvey Oswald's mother to represent Oswald before the committee appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The "Daily Worker" for May 27, 1953, stated that the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) held an election of officers on May 25, 1953, and that Mark Lano was elected an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the NLG.

The "Daily Worker" was an east coast communist newspaper which is no longer being published.

In June, 1953, a source whose reliability was unknown but who was in a position to furnish such information advised that Lano's name appeared on the membership list of the New York Chapter of the NLG and that he was a subscriber to the "Lawyers Guild Review," the official publication of the NLG. On May 17, 1951, Lano spoke at a membership meeting of the organization, according to another source.

A report of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) has described the NLG as the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party (CP).

A source has also advised that Lano participated in a debate at a forum sponsored by Durning Issues on September 25, 1961.

During March and April, 1962, Durning Issues circulated petitions and otherwise endeavored to have Mark Lano drafted as a candidate for Congress. According to a source on October 12, 1963, Lano was the principal speaker at a forum on mobilization for youth which was held by Durning Issues.

ORIGINAL TO J. LEE RANKIN, CHIEF COUNSEL, PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION, ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

100-40763

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See Note Page 5

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-40976-19

JAN 21 1964

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
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- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

Mark Lane

Confidential sources have advised that Advance, an Organization of Progressive Youth, was founded in New York City, February 12 and 13, 1960, and that its declaration of principles followed the line of the national CP leadership. In January, 1963, the name of the organization was changed to Advance and Burning Issues Youth Organizations, since Burning Issues, a separate youth organization, had affiliated with Advance.

A source reported that Mark Lane was the principal speaker at the annual conference of the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs (ELF) at the Statue of Liberty on July 25, 1961.

The ELF is recognized by the Communist Party, USA, as an important progressive organization of women. It grew out of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the International Workers Order (IWO), both of which have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Lane spoke at a meeting of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC) on October 21, 1962, in New York City, according to several sources. He strongly supported Cuba and condemned United States policy with regard to Cuba.

The ECLC has been described by the ECUA as operating as a communist front.

Several sources reported that Lane was one of the main speakers at a meeting sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights (CCDR) in Chicago, Illinois, on October 21, 1962, and he called for the abolition of the ECUA.

A source has reported that the CCDR was organized in Chicago, Illinois, on October 20, 1960, through the efforts and with the encouragement of CP officials, one of whom became the executive secretary of the CCDR. Its avowed purpose is to seek the abolition of the ECUA.

It was also reported that Mark Lane was a speaker at rallies held on April 21, 1961, and December 6, 1961, sponsored by the New York Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee (NYCAHUAC).

Mark Lane

"The Militant" for December 13, 1961, carried an article concerning the rally on December 6, 1961, and stated that Lane said his first official action during the coming session of the New York State Legislature would be to introduce a resolution to persuade Congress to abolish the HCUA.

"The Militant" is a weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party which has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Lane was reported by several sources to have attended numerous meetings of the HICARUAAC between October, 1960, and January, 1961. At a number of them he made speeches in which he strongly urged the abolition of the HCUA. The HICARUAAC is an affiliate of the National Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee and both were founded principally by an individual who was a CP member in 1952. Various sources have advised that CP members in the New York City area have been solicited on various occasions to support the HICARUAAC. Three sources have reported that during the Spring of 1962 discussions were held at various closed CP club and committee meetings concerning the support of Mark Lane as a candidate for Congress.

Several sources have also advised that Isidore Giddy Needleman was in frequent touch with Lane and was interested in assisting him in his political campaign in 1960 to become elected to the New York State Legislature.

According to several sources Needleman, an attorney, was formerly employed by Amtorg Trading Corporation, the registered Russian trade agency in the United States. He has also represented current and former CP members in court and before various Congressional committees. He has had custody of CP funds and has described himself as a strict adherent of Marxist-Leninist doctrines. He has also acted as a Soviet espionage agent.

It was reported that a rally was held November 6, 1961, at the McMillan Theater, Columbia University, New York City, to protest the ban by the University against the

[REDACTED]

Mark Lane

appearance of several previously scheduled communist speakers. According to the source, Benjamin S. Davis, National Secretary of the CP, and Mark Lane were principal speakers at the rally.

"The New York Times" for June 9, 1961, late city edition, on page S1 carried an article concerning the arrest and conviction of Mark Lane on June 8, 1961, at Jackson, Mississippi, as a member of one of two groups of "Freedom Riders" who had been apprehended in that city.

The same newspaper in its edition for April 3, 1962, carried an article on page 4 concerning Mark Lane's having been fined \$415 on April 2, 1962, in New York City as a "scofflaw," for ignoring numerous traffic tickets.

Mark Lane's defense brief for Leo Harvey Oswald appeared on pages 6, 8 and 9 of the December 19, 1963, issue of the "National Guardian," which has been cited by the ICMA as having manifested itself as a virtual official propaganda arm of Soviet Russia.

During an applicant investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in connection with the possible employment of an individual by an agency of the Federal Government, it was determined that the Office of the District Attorney, Queens County, New York, had conducted an investigation of Mark Lane in 1962 for alleged [REDACTED]. The results of this investigation were made available to the FBI. They included signed statements by [REDACTED] an [REDACTED] photograph of Lane and handwritten [REDACTED] by Lane relating to alleged [REDACTED].

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the above information was furnished to the FBI by sources who have furnished reliable information in the past.

Mark Lano

NOTE:

This memorandum is classified "Confidential" since it contains information from informants and sources of continuing value which information if divulged could compromise those sources and informants.

See memorandum Bland to W. C. Sullivan dated 1/16/64 captioned "Mark Lano, Security Matter-C," JHG/nea.